GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2854
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2016
Bilateral Relations with USA
Roy Prof. Saugata

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has asked the USA to open its market to Indian firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the USA in this regard;

(c) the present status of the bilateral trade between India and the USA;

(d) whether the USA is as liberal as India in opening its markets especially for software sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) There is regular dialogue on all trade related issues, including market access for goods and services, between India and the US. The main fora to discuss these issues are the Strategic and Commercial Dialogue and the Trade Policy Forum, which held their last meetings in Washington DC in September 2015 and October 2015 respectively.

(c) During 2015-16 (Provisional), bilateral merchandise trade between India and the US stood at $ 62.20 billion, which included exports to the US of $ 40.42 billion, and imports from the US of US$ 21.78 billion.

(d) & (e) The US economy is largely open and several Indian IT companies have presence in the country. However, the Indian IT services companies face difficulties in getting non-immigrant work visas (H-1B and L-1 visas) for their skilled professionals, due to an annual cap of 65,000 on the number of H1B visas issued per year; increase in visa processing fees; high rejection rates etc. The Government has consistently raised these issues with the US, and emphasized the importance of facilitating the movement of skilled professionals.